

to the weight of paper products. Claims 36, 37 and 40 now require a basis weight range of 68 to 339 gm/square meter (see page 7, lin 23 of the application). Paper products do not have weights that fall within this range. Other manifestations of the distinction of the claimed mat and the paper products of Casey can be seen when comparing the fiber lengths. For example, the fibers used in the manufacture mat are 6-15 times as large as those used in paper manufacture. In addition, the fiber materials employed in the mat are typically more dense.

Casey would not make the claimed mat obvious due to the distinctions in paper products and mats.

Furthermore, a combination of Casey with Weeks and Bagg would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art. Weeks and Bagg both show composite materials, while Casey describes paper manufacture. One of ordinary skill in the art would not find similarity in the "products" made by the Casey process and the Weeks and Bagg processes (and the product is what is at issue in the present case). Moreover, the Weeks and Bagg materials could not be used in the Casey process and vice versa. Furthermore, Weeks and Bagg are directed to randomly oriented fibrous materials, while Casey is directed oriented materials. In view of this, the claimed combination is not proper and one of ordinary skill in the art would not make the combination proposed by the Examiner or draw the conclusions the Examiner has drawn if the references were combined.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of claims 36, 37, and 39-42 at an early date is requested.

Very truly yours,



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1. Copy the office action and references for client. Hole punch originals in center of file
2. Attach bar code and stamp with AF stamp. Make copies of amendment for file and client. Hole punch copy in center of file
3. Attach a check for \$55 and file amendment in PTO
4. Copy letter for file. Hole punch left side
5. Copy the power of attorney. Hole punch left side
6. Prepare a bill
7. Mail letter, bill, copies of office action and amendment, and power of attorney document